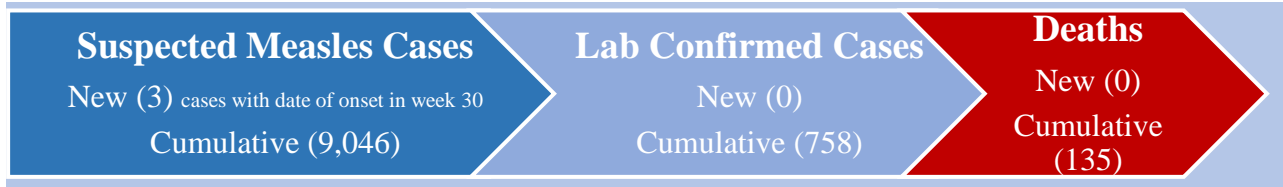




Republic of South Sudan

Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Issue number 23
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 Epidemiological week Week 30 (July 24 - 30, 2023)



* Above data is cumulative from 2022

Background

South Sudan continues to report Measles cases with a total of 4,898 suspected cases of which 366 (7.5%) have been lab confirmed and a case fatality of 1.84/100 cases for 2023.

These cases continue despite the Nationwide Measles campaign held in April -May 2023, that targeted 2,597,415 children and reached 2,386,290 representing 92% coverage and an independent Post campaign evaluation that put coverage at 85%.

Further epidemiological cases have shown that while the cases have increased after the campaign, this is attributed mainly to returnees and refugees returning to South Sudan following the Sudan crisis and this account for 350(26%) of cases from Epi week 25 to 30.

Key weekly Situation Update as of 30 July 2023

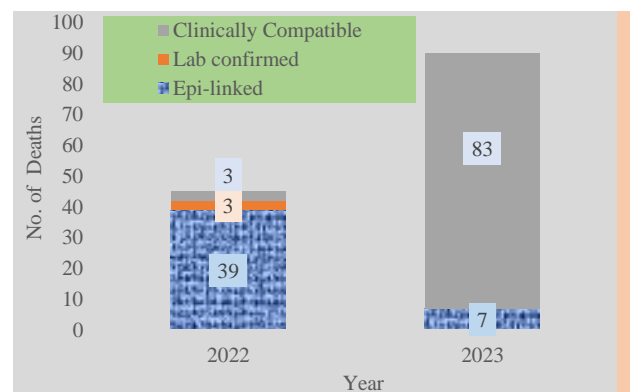
- Three (3) newly suspected cases reported this week
- No laboratory confirmed case has been reported in week 30, however last lab confirmed cases were in week 28 from Twic, Lafon, Pigi, Juba, Aweil Centre and Malakal.
- No newly reported deaths in the reporting week, but three (3) deaths from previous week 29 reported from Juba and Fangak counties in Central Equatoria and Jonglei
- There are currently twelve (12) counties with laboratory confirmed outbreaks from week 25, four (4) weeks after the nationwide campaign.
- In the last five (5) weeks (epi week 25-30), a total of 1,329 suspected measles cases have been reported, of which 325 (24%) are returnees, 25 (1.9%) refugees and 26(1.95%) in the IDPs from Renk, Maban, Juba, Aweil Centre, Malakal, Melut, Awerial, Gogrial West, Rubkona and Twic.

Summary of cases as of 30 July 2023

Table 1: Yearly distribution of cases by final classification

FINAL CLASSIFICATION	2022		2023		TOTAL
	NO. OF CASES	%	NO. OF CASES	%	
Lab confirmed	392	9.5	366	7.5	758
Epi-linked	2,825	68.3	376	7.7	3,201
Clinically Compatible	391	9.5	4,003	81.7	4,394
Total	3,608	87.2	4,745	96.9	8,353
Discarded (-ve)	529	12.8	153	3.1	682
Grand Total	4,137	100.0	4,898	100.0	9,046

Figure 1: Deaths by year and final classification



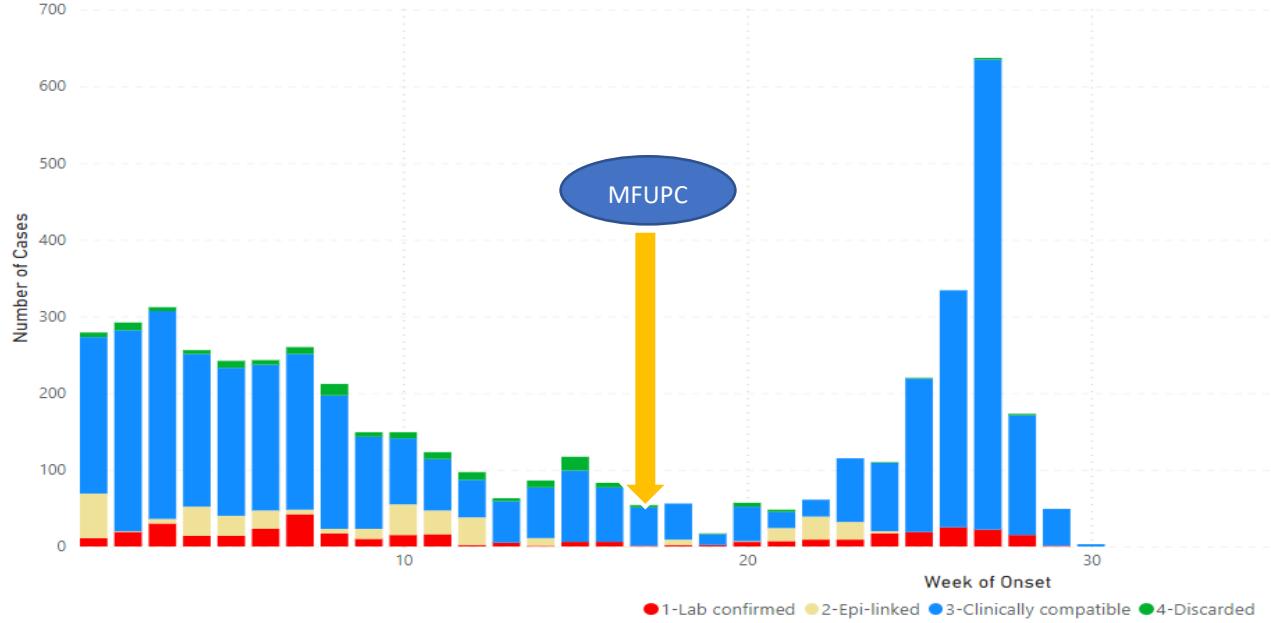
Out of the 9,046 suspected measles cases, 758(8.4%) are lab-confirmed, 3,201(35.4%) epi-linked, 4,359(48.6%) clinically compatible, and 682(7.5%) discarded cases have been reported from epidemiological week 1, 2022, to week 30, 2023. A total of 211 rubella positive cases from the discarded (negative measles cases)

A total of 135 measles-related deaths were reported since January 2022, with only 3 deaths among the lab-confirmed measles cases and 46 among the epi-linked cases.



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Figure 2: Epidemic curve of measles cases in South Sudan 2023



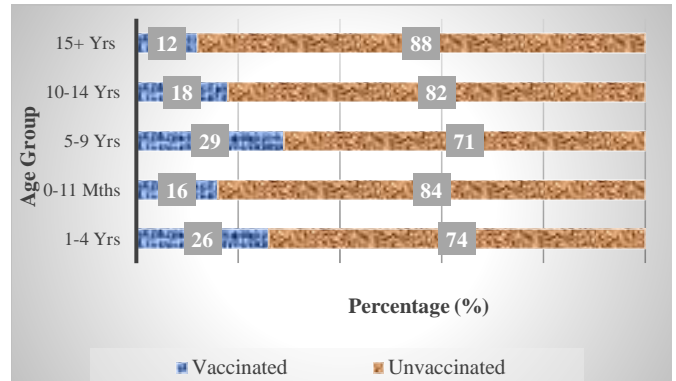
Note: Measles cases have been reported from different counties throughout 2023. The observed peaks are driven by different counties that experienced surge in measles cases at different times.

Table 2: Distribution of reported measles cases and deaths by age groups in South Sudan, 2022-2023

Age Groups	2022				2023			
	No. of cases	%	Deaths	%	No. of cases	%	Deaths	%
0-11 mths	1,137	27.5	10	0.9	856	17.5	11	1.3
1-4 yrs	1,931	46.7	27	1.4	2,346	47.9	51	2.2
5-9 yrs	612	14.8	4	0.7	921	18.8	13	1.4
10-14 yrs	277	6.7	2	0.7	342	7.0	6	1.8
15+ yrs	180	4.4	2	1.1	433	8.8	9	2.1
Total	4,137	100.0	45	1.1	4,898	100.0	90	1.8

Note: Majority 6,270(69.3%) of all the measles cases are children below 5 years of age considering both years. The case fatality rate is highest (1.4% and 2.2%) among children age 1-4 years in 2022 and 2023. Ninety-nine (99) out of the 135 reported deaths were among children below age 5 years

Figure3: Percentage distribution of measles cases and their vaccination status, 2022-2023



Note: Generally, 6,987(77.2%) were unvaccinated (zero, unknown) including 4,854(69.4%) children <5 years. Among children less than one year old (1,993 cases), 84% (1,674 cases) have not been vaccinated against measles compared with 319(16%) vaccinated. This trend is observed across all the age groups.



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Coordination

- The country is developing one country plan for the Sudan crisis of which the Measles situation is lead by the health cluster
- The Incident management structure remains in place and lead by the MOH
- The vaccination response and the measles outbreak post Sudan crisis plan developed and shared with partners.
- The country recently developed an application for the support for a Measles mop up and reactive campaign and other immunization activities costed at \$2,039,350

Surveillance and Laboratory

- Enhanced surveillance ongoing in silent counties
- Sample collection to resume as nationwide campaign is over 30 days to monitor the epidemiology of the outbreak
- Enhance surveillance for VPDs especially at the points of entry for the refugees, returnees from Sudan and in the silent counties
- Ensure weekly reporting (including zero dose reporting where applicable)

Case Management

- The MOH, WHO, and partners are intensifying measles case management (including vitamin A administration), surveillance, and risk communication in locations with suspected and confirmed outbreaks
- In collaboration with partners and MOH, WHO is prepositioning kits to support case management in counties with active outbreaks.

Vaccinations

- Nationwide measles campaign ongoing
 - Mop up campaigns conducted in Renk county, transit camps in Aweil North, Aweil East, Aweil West and Rubkona counties
 - A total of 65,605 (106%) children were vaccinated for Measles vaccine , of which 25087 (38%) are returnees
 - A total of 64,070 (99%) of children vaccinated with OPV of which 19,907 (31%) are returnees .
 - Set up vaccination posts at entry points for the refugees and returnees.
 - 22 counties have been mapped as high risks and targeted for various interventions that include reactive campaigns and use of dedicated vaccination teams at POEs, transit camps etc.

Deamand Generation/ Communication

- Demand generation activities ongoing for the planned mop up and reactive campaigns as well as routine immunization (radio talk shows and jingle broadcast)



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Operational challenges and gaps

- Inadequate detailed investigation of suspected measles cases and deaths in counties reporting
- Inadequate sample collection for laboratory confirmation and classification cases of suspected measles cases
- A high proportion of unvaccinated/unknown status children (77%) was detected among the cases, noting poor quality of investigations and gaps in immunization especially among the returnees and refugees.

Way Forward

- MOH and partners to support planned mop up campaign and other measles activities
- State and County MOH to continue weekly reporting of measles cases (including zero reporting where applicable)
- Prompt detection and management of measles cases
- Strengthen routine immunization
- Enhance the risk communication and community engagement on health and help seeking behaviour.

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